

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

#### Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing dinitrotoluene by nitration of toluene, which comprises ~~using~~ as providing a feedstock, ~~of~~ nitrocresol-containing extracts obtained by removing nitrocresols from wastewater of mononitrotoluene preparation, adding one or more acids to the alkaline wastewater of mononitrotoluene preparation ~~being acidified with acids to~~ obtain a pH of at most 3 and treating the nitrocresols ~~being treated~~ with an extractant.
2. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the one or more acids ~~having~~ have a  $pK_a$  value of at most 2 ~~are used~~.
3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the one or more acids are mineral acids ~~are used~~.
4. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the nitrocresols are extracted with toluene, o-, m-, p-nitrotoluene or mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the volume ratio of the wastewater to be extracted to the extractant is from 1:1 to 50:1.
6. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the nitrocresol-containing extracts are added as a substream to the process stage of mononitration of toluene.

7. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the nitroresol-containing extracts are added as a substream to the process stage of dinitration.

8. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of nitroresols added by the addition of the extracts is between 0.01 and 1% by weight based on the amount of dinitrotoluene obtained.

9. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the acids are mineral acids.

10. (New) The process according to claim 4, wherein the volume ratio of the wastewater to be extracted to the extractant is from 1:1 to 50:1.

11. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein the nitroresol-containing extracts are added as a substream to the process stage of dinitration.

12. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the acids are selected from nitric acid, sulfuric acid or a mixture thereof.

13. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein adding the one or more acids includes obtaining a pH of at most 2.

14. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the volume ratio is from 2:1 to 10:1.

15. (New) The process according to claim 6, wherein the extractant is toluene.

16. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein the extractant is 0-, m-, p-nitrotoluene.

17. (New) A process for preparing dinitrotoluene comprising:  
providing a feedstock of nitroresol-containing extracts obtained from a wastewater stream of a mononitrotoluene process, wherein nitrotoluene is used as an extractant; and  
adding the feedstock to the dinitrotoluene process such that the amount of nitroresols added by the addition of the extracts is between 0.01 and 1% by weight based on the amount of dinitrotoluene obtained.

18. (New) The process according to claim 17, wherein the volume ratio of the wastewater to the dinitrotoluene extractant is from 2:1 to 10:1.